



**United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council**

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**STATEMENT BY THE**  
**UNITED STATES**  
**NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR**  
**FUTURE**

**MARCH 26, 2010**

As representatives of the vanguard of companies involved in deploying new nuclear generation in the United States and globally, we look forward to providing input to the Commission from this perspective.

We welcome the Commission's linkage with America's nuclear energy future as embraced in its charter as well as continued recognition of nuclear energy as "clean, safe, reliable power" that plays a "vital role" as the world moves to "tackle climate change and diversify our National energy portfolio.."

There is no question that a tangible "decisive", "actionable" path forward for a consensus National strategy for a sustainable nuclear fuel cycle is paramount to new nuclear development, energy and national security, as well as economic competitiveness and environmental progress. Moreover, the Federal government clearly has a long standing statutory and contractual obligation to meet its obligations under the U.S. Nuclear Waste Policy Act in the face of mounting financial liabilities measuring in the tens of billions of dollars.

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**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR'S FUTURE  
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In general, we believe the way forward is best achieved by focusing on measurable steps and emphasis on creating more comprehensive options for a sustainable fuel cycle.

We look forward to constructive engagement with the Commission on a number of "flexible" approaches, including, but not limited to:

**Implementation**

Creation of a Federal corporation with responsibility for implementing an integrated management program for the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle in order to overcome funding and implementation issues that have impeded progress to date. It is a fact that countries that are making concrete progress in this arena -- France, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Japan -- are doing so via privately chartered enterprises;

**Closing the Fuel Cycle**

Closing the fuel cycle by deploying available next-generation proliferation resistant recycling systems into the current U.S. fuel cycle paradigm with reliance on proven technology. This could also include a commitment toward an industrial-scale pro-type advanced recycling reactor demonstration supported by necessary infrastructure. Having an operating fast reactor in the U.S. will create an important option for the nation's nuclear recycling strategy.

**Central Storage.**

Pursuit of central storage options, especially for shut-down plants and defense waste is desirable.

## **National Repository**

Consummation of a National repository in this generation is a prerequisite. A repository is required under any fuel cycle scenario. This endeavor should include a full-review of the current Yucca Mountain option commensurate with Congressional mandates and the time-tested adage that those who ignore the lessons of the past are condemned to repeat them.

## **Infrastructure Readiness**

Addressing infrastructure readiness including transportation, supply chain, workforce and other key building blocks inherent in any strategy

Please note that -- while the above views represent the consensus of the Council -- they do not necessarily represent the specific views of every individual member.

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